Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Some draft elements on Principles and Objectives and Programme of Actions on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament

Proposed by Myanmar

The delegation of Myanmar favours the adoption by the Review Conference of a set of decisions and one resolution.

There could be two decisions or more and one resolution. In any case, they include, inter alia,

- decision on the further strengthened review process;

- decision on principles and objectives and one programme of actions (POPA) on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament ; and

- resolution on the Middle East.

The following are some draft elements, proposed by the delegation of Myanmar: -

Universality

Universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains to be an urgent priority.

The States Parties welcome the nine recent accessions to the Treaty. All States not yet party to the Treaty are called upon to accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. Every effort should be made by all States parties to achieve this objective.

The State Parties reaffirm their view that effective measures for nuclear disarmament will contribute towards the realization of the goal of the universality of adherence to the Treaty.

Non-proliferation

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons has a vital role to play in preserving the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The international community should make all possible efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, without hampering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by States Parties to the Treaty.

They recognize that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are complementary to one another and that effective nuclear disarmament measures will contribute to the maintenance of an effective regime of nuclear non-proliferation.

Nuclear disarmament

The States Parties reaffirm the great importance they attach to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

They recognize that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of the human civilization and that the best and the only genuinely effective defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of these weapons.

All States Parties reaffirm their firm commitment to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

They also reaffirm that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

While they appreciate the important role of bilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament between the Nuclear Weapon States, they recognize the need to multilateralize negotiations on nuclear disarmament in view of the global nature of the problem.

In this context, they call for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament at

an early date and the commencement of multilateral negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of these weapons.

The achievement of the following measures is important for the full realization of nuclear disarmament and effective implementation of Article VI, including the effective actions as reflected below; -

(a) the early entry into force of the Comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty, not later than ---- ;

(b) the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, not later than ---- ; and

(c) other crucial arm control measures for the reduction of nuclear danger such as de-alerting and de-activating nuclear weapons and a joint undertaking by the Nuclear weapon States not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and further measures of de-emphasizing the role of nuclear weapons.

Security assurances

The States Parties reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only genuine guarantee for non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of such a goal, a legally binding international instrument on a security assurances regime which will ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons must be urgently concluded.

The States Parties recognize that, by renouncing voluntarily their nuclear option, the non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the Treaty are entitled to receive legally-binding security assurances from the Nuclear Weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them.

The States Parties reaffirm their firm commitments to take further steps which could take the form of an internationally and legally-binding instrument to assure non-nuclear weapon States Parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

The States Parties reaffirm their conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned enhances global and regional peace and security.

In this respect, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in their respective regions by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Palindeba have gone a long way in limiting the geographic proliferation of nuclear weapons and in enhancing global and regional peace and security.

The cooperation of all the Nuclear Weapon States and their respect and support for the respective protocols are necessary for the maximum effectiveness of nuclear-weapon-free zones and their respective protocols.

The States Parties express their desire to see an early entry into force of the protocols which still remain to be ratified by the Nuclear Weapon States through the resolution of the remaining issues in a spirit of amity and cooperation in the shortest possible times.

These are some thoughts and proposals of the Myanmar delegation on the format and substance of the document to be adopted by the 2000 Review Conference. It is hoped that these proposed draft elements will be useful inputs to the preparatory work of this PrepCom for the Review Conference.